

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-20 MC-02 ACDA-19

COME-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01

NEA-14 IO-14 DRC-01 /184 W

----- 102755

R 161604Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4155

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

CSAF

CJCS

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4040

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BEXP, NL

SUBJ: F104 AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT

1. AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY OTTO GLASSER, AND JACK PHELAN OF GENERAL DYNAMICS, AND CAPT MITCHELL AND COL MILLER OF MAAG-NETHERLANDS, CALLED ON NETHERLANDS DEFMIN VREDELING ON AUGUST 15.

2. AFTER EXCHANGING AMENITIES, AMB TOLD VREDELING THAT HE REQUESTED THE MEETING TO GIVE G.D. REPRESENTATIVES SAME OPPORTUNITY TO MEET MINISTER THAT EMBASSY HAD PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED FOR NORTHROP, EMPHASIZING THAT USG WAS IMPARTIAL IN REGARD TO THE TWO US REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT AT THIS TIME.

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3. GLASSER THEN MADE LOW-KEY PRESENTATION TO EFFECT THAT EITHER OF THE AMERICAN AIRCRAFT WOULD MORE THAN SATISFY GON'S REPLACEMENT NEEDS. GLASSER SAID THAT G.D. WELCOMED THE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE U.S. OF MINISTER VREDELING AND HIS COUNTERPARTS FROM THE OTHER CONSORTIUM COUNTRIES, AND ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY SPECIAL DATA WHICH VREDELING MIGHT WANT AVAILABLE DURING HIS SEPTEMBER VISIT.

4. AT THIS POINT, VREDELING SAID THAT IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE FOUR MODS WILL VISIT U.S. IN SEPT BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING PROBLEM ON PART OF BELGIAN DEFMIN BOEYNANTS WHO STATES HE CANNOT ACCEPT PARIS INVITATION AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED. FRENCH CHARGE HERE HAS JUST PROPOSED A LATER SEPT DATE FOR VISIT TO FRANCE BUT VREDELING CANNOT LEAVE HAGUE IN LATE SEPT OR OCT DUE TO OPENING OF PARLIAMENT AND UPCOMING DEBATE ON HIS DEFENSE WHITE PAPER. AS POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE, VREDELING SAID THAT PERHAPS THE FOUR MODS COULD GET TOGETHER AT DECEMBER DPC MEETING IN BRUSSELS. AT THAT TIME THEY COULD MEET WITH SECDEF AND ESTABLISH AN AGENDA FOR A MEETING IN U.S. IN JANUARY.

5. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS SURE USG COULD ACCOMMODATE ALTERNATIVE DATES AND, IF NECESSARY, WOULD EXTEND INVITATIONS TO THE INDIVIDUAL MODS. DEFMIN WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT IT WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR ANY MEMBER OF CONSORTIUM TO UNILATERALLY ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO EITHER COUNTRY.

6. IT WAS APPARENT THAT VREDELING DID NOT REGRET POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF U.S. VISIT SINCE, IN EFFECT, IT MAY HELP PERSUADE BELGIUM TO DELAY FURTHER ITS SELF-IMPOSED SEPT 30 DEADLINE FOR DECISION ON F104 REPLACEMENT. QUESTION WAS LEFT OPEN, BUT VREDELING HAS BEFORE HIM A WRITTEN INVITATION FROM SECDEF FOR A SEPTEMBER VISIT TO WHICH HE MUST SHORTLY RESPOND. VREDELING EMPHASIZED THAT LIKELY DECISION TO DALAY SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE CONSTRUED AS INDICATING DECLINE OF DUTCH INTEREST IN AMERICAN CONTENDERS.

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7. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE MEETING WITH VREDELING FURTHER SUBSTANTIATES OUR PREVIOUSLY REPORTED DUTCH STRATEGY OF ATTEMPTING TO DELAY CONSORTIUM DECISION UNTIL DECEMBER. WE BELIEVE A DELAY TO BE IN THE U.S. BEST INTERESTS, AND IS FURTHER JUSTIFIED BY LACK OF SUFFICIENT HARD AND FIRM DTA FROM THE U.S. AT THIS TIME. WE HOPE AND BELIEVE DUTCH WILL ATTEMPT TO DELAY UNTIL CONTRACTORS

HAVE HAD TIME TO RESPOND TO USG REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL.

8. AFTER OTHER U.S. PARTICIPANTS LEFT MEETING,
AMBASSADOR ASKED DEFMIN FOR HIS VIEWS OF DUTCH PRESS BEING
INVITED TO U.S. TO BALANCE SIMILAR FRENCH INVITATION.
HE SAW SOME POTENTIAL DANGERS BUT OFFERED NO OBJECTION.
BLODGETT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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